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Social development

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Khalid **Alwafi** (Saudi Arabia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2008, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled:

"Social development:

"(a) Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly;

"(b) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family;

"(c) Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing;

"(d) United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all;

"(e) Review and appraisal of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons"

and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item at its 1st to 4th, 11th, 23rd and 48th meetings, on 6, 7, 14 and 23 October and 25 November 2008. At its 1st to 4th meetings, the Committee held a general discussion on sub-items (a) to (e) of agenda item 55. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/63/SR.1-4, 11, 23 and 48).

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3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing (A/63/95);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (A/63/133);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the fifth quinquennial review and appraisal of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons (A/63/183);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the implementation of the International Year of Volunteers (A/63/184);

(e) Note by the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade (A/63/172).

4. At the 1st meeting, on 6 October, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, the Acting Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Executive Coordinator of the United Nations Volunteers Programme and the Director of the Division for the Coordination of United Nations Priorities in Education of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) made introductory statements (see A/C.3/63/SR.1).

5. At the same meeting, the Acting Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development, the Executive Coordinator of the United Nations Volunteers Programme and the Director of the Division for the Coordination of United Nations Priorities in Education of UNESCO responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Malaysia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala, Nigeria, Egypt and the Syrian Arab Republic (see A/C.3/63/SR.1).

6. At the 3rd meeting, on 7 October, a representative of the Division for Social Policy and Development responded to a question posed at the 1st meeting (see A/C.3/63/SR.3).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.3/63/L.3 and Rev.1

7. At the 11th meeting, on 14 October, the representative of the Philippines introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities" (A/C.3/63/L.3). Subsequently, Benin, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Guinea, Mongolia, Mozambique, Panama, Paraguay, Senegal and Sri Lanka joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its previous resolutions concerning persons with disabilities, in particular resolution 62/127 of 18 December 2007, in which it recognized the important role of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and the importance of including the perspective of persons with disabilities in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of progress in reaching the Millennium Development Goals and other international development goals,

"*Aware* that there are at least 650 million persons with disabilities worldwide and that the majority of them live in conditions of poverty, and in this regard recognizing the critical need to address the negative impact of poverty on persons with disabilities,

"*Reaffirming* the need to include the rights of and be sensitive to the situation and needs of persons with disabilities in development efforts at the national, regional and international levels, and that if the perspective of persons with disabilities is not taken into account, the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals, will not be genuinely achieved, and in this regard stressing the need to improve complementarity and synergy in the implementation of the three main United Nations mechanisms, namely, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, each of which can build or strengthen the effectiveness of national legislation, the domestic policy environment and development programmes affecting persons with disabilities,

"1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the fifth quinquennial review and appraisal of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, which provides a comprehensive assessment of the world disability situation and expounds on the utility of the international normative framework on disability in strengthening the responsiveness of development efforts to disability concerns, and expresses appreciation for the concrete examples and recommendations in that regard;

"2. *Expresses* concern about the persistent gap between policy and practice regarding mainstreaming the perspective of persons with disabilities, including their rights and well-being, in the work of the United Nations in realizing the Millennium Development Goals;

"3. *Encourages* States, in cooperation with, inter alia, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as regional and international financial institutions and the private sector, as appropriate, to be guided in their work by the objectives of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, as well as those of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, and to examine and ensure that development strategies, policies and programmes aimed at implementing internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, are inclusive of issues concerning persons with disabilities and promote the equalization of opportunities for all by:

"(a) Ensuring accessibility, including through reasonable accommodation to enable persons with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life and to participate as agents and beneficiaries of development;

"(b) Providing appropriate resources and accessible social services and safety nets for persons with disabilities to ensure improved well-being for all;

"(c) Ensuring an adequate standard of living and social protection for persons with disabilities, including through access to poverty and hunger eradication programmes, inclusive quality education, in particular free and compulsory primary education and secondary education, as well as the same range, quality and standard of free or affordable health care as provided to other persons, and the promotion of full employment and decent work for all;

"(d) Promoting and strengthening national capacities for participatory, democratic and accountable processes and mechanisms that further the equalization of opportunities for the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in civil, political, economic, social and cultural life;

"4. *Also encourages* States to be guided by the international normative standards in formulating, implementing and evaluating the foregoing actions;

"5. *Encourages* improvement, by providing better training in national statistics offices, in the ability of States to collect and analyse appropriate information on the situation of persons with disabilities, including statistical and research data that are disaggregated by age and sex and information on the causes and costs of disability, the participation of persons with disabilities in society and the environment and disability, bearing in mind appropriate protection of personal data, for purposes of policy planning, analysis and evaluation that include the perspective of persons with disabilities, and in this regard invites States to avail themselves of the technical services of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat;

"6. *Calls upon* States to include in country reports, in connection with the forthcoming periodic reviews of progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, a review and evaluation of the impact of development efforts on the rights, well-being and livelihood of persons with disabilities;

"7. *Reaffirms its commitment* to respect and promote, without discrimination, the rights of indigenous persons with disabilities, and urges States to take effective measures to continue to improve their economic and social conditions;

"8. *Encourages* States to promote, in a proactive manner, the perspective of persons with disabilities in international cooperation by enhancing channels of cooperation and exploring new options, whether through development assistance, multilateral, bilateral or regional arrangements, South-South cooperation, trilateral cooperation or other forms of technical exchange, to accomplish the goal of mainstreaming disability in development cooperation;

"9. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

"(a) To submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session, taking into account annex I of the report of the Secretary-General on the fifth quinquennial review and appraisal of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, updates of the World Programme of Action in the form of global strategic guidelines for advancement of persons with disabilities in development, which could be developed and updated every five years and should be based on experience in implementing the World Programme of Action, the Standard Rules and corresponding provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and on inputs from regional consultations, States and individual experts, as well as existing data available to the United Nations;

"(b) To submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session a single, comprehensive, biennial report on progress and challenges concerning the advancement of persons with disabilities in the context of development, to include monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the World Programme of Action, in conjunction with the Standard Rules, as well as guidance based on monitoring of the Convention;

"(c) To ensure that there is increased accessibility in the services and facilities of the United Nations for persons with disabilities."

8. At its 48th meeting, on 25 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "Realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities through the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" (A/C.3/63/L.3/Rev.1), submitted by Andorra, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, China, the Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Guinea, Indonesia, Mongolia, Mozambique, Panama, Paraguay, the Philippines, Qatar, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey and the United Republic of Tanzania. Subsequently, Colombia, the Congo, El Salvador, Ghana, Honduras, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Liberia, Mali, Mauritius, Montenegro,[1] Nigeria, Peru, the Republic of Korea, Swaziland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkmenistan, Uganda and Ukraine joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

9. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

10. At the same meeting, the representative of Uganda, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, orally introduced a revision to the draft resolution by which a new paragraph would be inserted after the fourth preambular paragraph reading:

"*Bearing in mind* that conditions of peace and security based on full respect for the purposes and principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations and observance of applicable human rights instruments are indispensable for the full protection of persons with disabilities, in particular during armed conflicts and foreign occupation".

[1] Subsequently, the delegation of Montenegro informed the Secretariat that it wished to withdraw its sponsorship of the draft resolution.

11. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted the revision by a recorded vote of 67 to 41, with 52 abstentions. The voting was as follows:[2]

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Chad, China, Comoros, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Egypt, Eritrea, Gambia, Guyana, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Monaco, Morocco, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Against:

Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Burundi, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

Abstaining:

Albania, Angola, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Japan, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago and Vanuatu.

12. Before the vote, statements were made by the representatives of the Philippines, Costa Rica, France (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Mexico, Canada, the United States and New Zealand (see A/C.3/63/SR.48).

13. Subsequently, Andorra, Colombia, the Republic of Korea and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia withdrew their sponsorship of the draft resolution as orally revised.

14. Statements were made by the representatives of the Philippines and France (see A/C.3/63/SR.48).

15. Also at the 48th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.3/Rev.1, as orally revised, by a recorded vote of 176 to none (see para. 39, draft resolution I). The voting was as follows:

[2] The delegation of the United Republic of Tanzania subsequently indicated that it had intended to abstain.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

None.

16. After the vote, statements were made by the representatives of Israel and Chile (see A/C.3/63/SR.48).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.4

17. At the 11th meeting, on 14 October, the representative of Antigua and Barbuda, on behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, as well as Japan, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing" (A/C.3/63/L.4). Subsequently, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

18. At the 23rd meeting, on 23 October, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

19. At the same meeting, the representative of Antigua and Barbuda orally revised the text as follows:

(a) Operative paragraph 4, which read:

"4. *Recommends* that Member States devise strategies to overcome obstacles to the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action based on life-course and intergenerational solidarity approaches in order to increase the likelihood of greater success in the years ahead"

was replaced by:

"4. *Also encourages* Member States to overcome obstacles to the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action by devising strategies that take into account the entirety of the human life-course and foster intergenerational solidarity in order to increase the likelihood of greater success in the years ahead";

(b) Operative paragraph 8 was placed after paragraph 6;

(c) Operative paragraph 8 (former paragraph 7), which read:

"7. *Invites* Governments to conduct their ageing-related policies through inclusive consultations with relevant stakeholders and social development partners, in the interest of creating national policy ownership and consensus-building"

was replaced by:

"8. *Invites* Governments to conduct their ageing-related policies through inclusive and participatory consultations with relevant stakeholders and social development partners, in the interest of developing effective policies creating national policy ownership and consensus-building";

(d) After operative paragraph 10, three new paragraphs were inserted, reading:

"11. *Calls upon* Governments to ensure, as appropriate, conditions that enable families and communities to provide care and protection to persons as they age and to evaluate improvement in the health status of older persons, including on a gender-specific basis, and to reduce disability and mortality;

"12. *Encourages* Governments to continue their efforts to implement the Madrid Plan of Action and to mainstream the concerns of older persons into their policy agendas, bearing in mind the crucial importance of family intergenerational interdependence, solidarity and reciprocity for social development and the realization of all human rights for older persons and to prevent age discrimination and provide social integration;

"13. *Encourages* the international community to enhance international cooperation to support national efforts to eradicate poverty, in keeping with internationally agreed goals, in order to achieve sustainable social and economic support for older persons";

and the subsequent paragraphs were renumbered accordingly;

(e) Operative paragraph 16 (former paragraph 13), which read:

"13. *Stresses* the need for additional capacity-building at the national level in order to promote and facilitate implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action and in that connection encourages Governments to support the United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to provide expanded assistance to countries, upon their request"

was replaced by:

"16. *Reiterates* the need for additional capacity-building at the national level in order to promote and facilitate further implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, as well as the result of its first review and appraisal cycle, and in that connection encourages Governments to support the United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to provide expanded assistance to countries, upon their request";

(f) Operative paragraph 19 (former paragraph 16), which read:

"16. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a report specifically on protecting the rights of older persons"

was replaced by:

"19. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including information on the promotion and protection of human rights as they pertain to older persons".

20. Subsequently, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, the Netherlands, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

21. Also at its 23rd meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.4, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 39, draft resolution II).

C. Draft resolutions A/C.3/63/L.5 and Rev.1

22. At the 11th meeting, on 14 October, the representative of Antigua and Barbuda, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly" (A/C.3/63/L.5), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly entitled 'World Summit for Social Development and

beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world', held at Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,

"*Reaffirming* that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session, as well as a continued global dialogue on social development issues, constitute the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels,

"*Recalling* the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the development goals contained therein, as well as the commitments made at major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, including the commitments made at the 2005 World Summit,

"*Recalling also* its resolution 60/209 of 22 December 2005 on the implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006),

"*Recalling further* its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

"*Noting with appreciation* the ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2006 of the Economic and Social Council, on 'Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development',

"*Noting* that the decent work agenda of the International Labour Organization, with its four strategic objectives, is an important instrument to achieve the objective of full and productive employment and decent work for all,

"*Emphasizing* the need to enhance the role of the Commission for Social Development in the follow-up and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,

"*Recognizing* that a people-centred approach must be at the centre of economic and social development,

"*Expressing deep concern* that attainment of the social development objectives may be hindered by instability in global and national financial markets as well as challenges brought about by the ongoing fuel and food crisis,

"*Expressing concern* that in most countries economic growth remains insufficient to create job opportunities, while in others, higher growth rates have not translated into the generation of better and more productive jobs, especially for the poor, and stressing in this regard that the failure of globalization to create jobs deserves priority attention,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Welcomes* the reaffirmation by Governments of their will and commitment to continue implementing the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action, in particular to eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and foster social integration to achieve stable, safe and just societies for all;

"3. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the Copenhagen commitments and the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, are mutually reinforcing and that the Copenhagen commitments are crucial to a coherent people-centred approach to development;

"4. *Reaffirms* that the Commission for Social Development continues to have the primary responsibility for the follow-up and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly and that it serves as the main United Nations forum for an intensified global dialogue on social development issues, and calls upon Member States, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and civil society to enhance their support for its work;

"5. *Recognizes* that the broad concept of social development affirmed by the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly has been weakened in national and international policymaking and that, while poverty eradication is a central part of development policy and discourse, further attention should be given to the other commitments agreed to at the Summit, in particular those concerning employment and social integration, which have also suffered from a general disconnect between economic and social policymaking;

"6. *Acknowledges* that the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), launched after the World Summit for Social Development, has provided the long-term vision for sustained and concerted efforts at the national and international levels to eradicate poverty;

"7. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the commitments made by Governments during the first Decade has fallen short of expectations and that the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) was proclaimed by the Assembly in its resolution 62/205 in order to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, the internationally agreed development goals related to poverty eradication, including the Millennium Development Goals;

"8. *Emphasizes* that the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit, the 2005 World Summit, as well as the International Conference on Financing for Development, in its Monterrey Consensus, have reinforced the priority and urgency of poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda;

"9. *Also emphasizes* that poverty eradication policies should attack poverty by addressing its root and structural causes and manifestations, and that equity and the reduction of inequalities need to be incorporated in those policies;

"10. *Stresses* that an enabling environment is a critical precondition for achieving equity and social development and that, while economic growth is essential, entrenched inequality and marginalization are an obstacle to the broad-based and sustained growth required for sustainable, inclusive people-centred development, and recognizes the need to balance and ensure complementarity between measures to achieve growth and measures to achieve economic and social equity in order for there to be an impact on overall poverty levels;

"11. *Also stresses* that stability in global financial markets, as well as corporate responsibility and accountability are essential in creating an enabling international environment to promote economic growth and social development;

"12. *Recognizes* the need to promote respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to address the most pressing social needs of people living in poverty, including through the design and development of appropriate mechanisms to strengthen and consolidate democratic institutions and governance;

"13. *Reaffirms* the commitment to the empowerment of women and gender equality, as well as to the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into all development efforts, recognizing that these are critical for achieving sustainable development and for efforts to combat hunger, poverty and disease and to strengthen policies and programmes that improve, ensure and broaden the full participation of women in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life, as equal partners, and to improve their access to all resources needed for the full exercise of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms by removing persistent barriers, including ensuring equal access to full and productive employment and decent work, as well as strengthening their economic independence;

"14. *Also reaffirms* the commitment to employment strategies and macroeconomic policies that actively promote opportunities for full, freely chosen and productive employment, including for the most disadvantaged, as well as decent work for all, in order to deliver social justice combined with economic efficiency, with full respect for fundamental principles and rights at work under conditions of equity, equality, security and dignity, and further reaffirms that employment creation should be incorporated into macroeconomic policies, taking fully into account the social impact and dimension of globalization;

"15. *Further reaffirms* that there is an urgent need to create an environment at the national and international levels that is conducive to the attainment of full and productive employment and decent work for all as a foundation for sustainable development and that an environment that supports investment, growth and entrepreneurship is essential to the creation of new job opportunities, and also reaffirms that opportunities for men and women to obtain productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity are essential to ensuring the eradication of hunger and poverty, the improvement of economic and social well-being for all, the achievement of sustained economic growth and sustainable development of all nations and a fully inclusive and equitable globalization;

"16. *Stresses* the importance of removing obstacles to the realization of the right of peoples to self-determination, in particular of people living under colonial or other forms of alien domination or foreign occupation, which adversely affect their social and economic development, including their exclusion from labour markets;

"17. *Reaffirms* that violence, in its many manifestations, including domestic violence, especially against women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities, is a growing threat to the security of individuals, families and communities everywhere; total social breakdown is an all too real contemporary experience; organized crime, illegal drugs, the illicit arms trade, trafficking in women and children, ethnic and religious conflict, civil war, terrorism, all forms of extremist violence, xenophobia, and politically motivated killing and even genocide present fundamental threats to societies and the global social order; they also present compelling and urgent reasons for action by Governments individually and, as appropriate, jointly to foster social cohesion while recognizing, protecting and valuing diversity;

"18. *Calls upon* the organizations of the United Nations system to commit to mainstreaming the goal of full and productive employment and decent work for all in their policies, programmes and activities;

"19. *Recognizes* that full and productive employment and decent work for all, which encompass social protection, fundamental principles and rights at work and social dialogue, are key elements of sustainable development for all countries and are therefore a priority objective of international cooperation;

"20. *Also recognizes* that specific programmes should be developed aimed at overcoming discrimination in employment and at integrating into the labour market women and social groups, such as youth, persons with disabilities, and older persons, as well as migrants and indigenous peoples;

"21. *Encourages* States to promote youth employment through developing and implementing national action plans in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders;

"22. *Also encourages* States to pursue efforts to mainstream the concerns of older persons and persons with disabilities and their organizations in the planning, implementing and evaluating of all development programmes and policies;

"23. *Stresses* that policies and programmes designed to achieve poverty eradication, full employment and decent work for all should include specific measures to foster social integration, including by providing marginalized socio-economic sectors and groups with equal access to opportunities and social protection;

"24. *Acknowledges* the important nexus between international migration and social development, and stresses the importance of enforcing labour law effectively with regard to migrant workers' labour relations and working conditions, inter alia, those related to their remuneration and conditions of health, safety at work and the right to freedom of association;

"25. *Reaffirms* that social integration policies should seek to reduce inequalities, promote access to basic social services, education for all and

health care, increase the participation and integration of social groups, particularly youth, older persons and persons with disabilities, and address the challenges posed by globalization and market-driven reforms to social development in order for all people in all countries to benefit from globalization;

"26. *Also reaffirms* the commitment to promote the rights of indigenous peoples in the areas of education, employment, housing, sanitation, health and social security, and also notes the attention paid to those areas in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

"27. *Recognizes* the need to formulate social development policies in an integral, articulated and participative manner, recognizing poverty as a multidimensional phenomenon, calls for interlinked public policies on this matter, and underlines the need for public policies to be included in a comprehensive development and well-being strategy;

"28. *Acknowledges* the important role that the public sector can play as an employer and in developing an environment that enables the effective generation of full and productive employment and decent work for all;

"29. *Also acknowledges* the vital role that the private sector can play in generating new investments, employment and financing for development and in advancing efforts towards full employment and decent work;

"30. *Recognizes* that the majority of poor people live and work in rural areas, that priority should be given to agricultural and non-farm sectors and that steps should be taken to anticipate and offset the negative social and economic consequences of globalization and to maximize its benefits for poor people living and working in rural areas;

"31. *Also recognizes* the need to give priority to investing in and further promoting agricultural development, small and medium-sized enterprises and entrepreneurship as means to promote full productive employment and decent work for all;

"32. *Reaffirms* the commitments made in respect of 'Meeting the special needs of Africa' at the 2005 World Summit, underlines the call of the Economic and Social Council for enhanced coordination within the United Nations system and the ongoing efforts to harmonize the current initiatives on Africa, and requests the Commission for Social Development to continue to give due prominence in its work to the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

"33. *Also reaffirms* that each country has the primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, and underlines the importance of adopting effective measures, including new financial mechanisms, as appropriate, to support the efforts of developing countries to achieve sustained economic growth, sustainable development, poverty eradication and the strengthening of their democratic systems;

"34. *Further reaffirms*, in this context, that international cooperation has an essential role in assisting developing countries, including the least

developed countries, in strengthening their human, institutional and technological capacity;

"35. *Stresses* that the international community shall enhance its efforts to create an enabling environment for social development and poverty eradication through increasing market access for developing countries, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, financial aid and a comprehensive solution to the external debt problem;

"36. *Also stresses* that international trade and sound financial systems can be effective tools to create favourable conditions for the development of all countries and that trade barriers and unfair trading practices continue to have negative effects on employment growth in developing countries;

"37. *Acknowledges* that good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels are essential for sustained economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger;

"38. *Urges* developed countries that have not yet done so in accordance with their commitments, to make concrete efforts towards meeting the targets of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.2 per cent of their gross national product to least developed countries, and encourages developing countries to build on the progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help to meet development goals and targets;

"39. *Welcomes* the contributions of Member States to the mobilization of resources by means of innovative financing mechanisms, such as the International Drug Purchase Facility, UNITAID, the International Finance Facility for Immunisation, the Advanced Market Commitments for Vaccines and other initiatives within the Global Call to Action Against Poverty, which aim at providing complementary, stable and predictable financing for social development;

"40. *Reaffirms* that social development requires the active involvement of all actors in the development process, including civil society organizations, corporations and small businesses, and that partnerships among all relevant actors are increasingly becoming part of national and international cooperation for social development, and also reaffirms that, within countries, partnerships among the Government, civil society and the private sector can contribute effectively to the achievement of social development goals;

"41. *Underlines* the responsibility of the private sector, at both the national and the international levels, including small and large companies and transnational corporations, regarding not only the economic and financial but also the development, social, gender and environmental implications of their activities, their obligations towards their workers and their contributions to achieving sustainable development, including social development, and emphasizes the need to take concrete actions on corporate responsibility and accountability, including through the participation of all relevant stakeholders, inter alia, for the prevention or prosecution of corruption;

"42. *Invites* the Secretary-General, the Economic and Social Council, the regional commissions, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental forums, within their respective mandates, to continue to integrate into their work programmes and give priority attention to the Copenhagen commitments and the Declaration on the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development, to continue to be actively involved in their follow-up and to monitor the achievement of those commitments and undertakings;

"43. *Invites* the Commission for Social Development to emphasize in its review of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action the increased exchange of national, regional and international experiences, the focused and interactive dialogues among experts and practitioners and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned, and to provide an assessment of the potential impact of the ongoing food, fuel and financial crises on global development goals;

"44. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the sub-item entitled 'Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly', and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the question to the Assembly at that session."

23. At its 43rd meeting, on 20 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly" (A/C.3/63/L.5/Rev.1), submitted by Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China. Subsequently, Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

24. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications (see A/C.3/63/SR.43).

25. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Antigua and Barbuda orally revised the text as follows:

(a) The fifth preambular paragraph was placed after the third preambular paragraph;

(b) The seventh preambular paragraph, which read:

"*Noting* that the decent work agenda of the International Labour Organization, with its four strategic objectives, is an important instrument to achieve the objective of full and productive employment and decent work for all",

was replaced by:

"*Noting* that the decent work agenda of the International Labour Organization, with its four strategic objectives has an important role to play, as reaffirmed in the International Labour Organization Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, in achieving the objective of full and productive employment and decent work for all";

(c) In the tenth preambular paragraph, the words "may be hindered" were replaced by the words "can be hindered", and the word "crisis" was replaced by the word "crises";

(d) In operative paragraph 17, the words "in particular of people" was replaced with the words "in particular of peoples";

(e) In operative paragraph 25, the word "national" was deleted after the words "developing and implementing";

(f) In operative paragraph 41, the words "unfair trading practices" were replaced by the words "some trading practices", and the word "particularly" was inserted after the words "on employment growth";

(g) In operative paragraph 44, the word "contributions" was replaced by the word "contribution" and the acronym "UNITAID" was inserted after the words "International Drug Purchase Facility";

(h) In operative paragraph 49, the words "to provide an assessment of the potential impact of the ongoing food, fuel and financial and energy crises on global development goals" were replaced by the words "to address, inter alia, the potential impact of the ongoing food, financial and energy crises on social development goals".

26. Also at the 43rd meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.5/Rev.1, as orally revised (see para. 39, draft resolution III).

27. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of the United States of America (see A/C.3/63/SR.43).

D. Draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.6

28. At the 11th meeting, on 14 October, the representative of Brazil, on behalf of Belgium, Brazil, the Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Guatemala, Honduras, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Malta, Mexico, the Netherlands, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Thailand, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the implementation of the International Year of Volunteers" (A/C.3/63/L.6).

29. Subsequently, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malawi, Monaco, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Norway, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Singapore, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern

Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

30. At the 23rd meeting, on 23 October, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution (see A/C.3/63/SR.23).

31. At the same meeting, the representative of Brazil orally revised operative paragraph 13 of the draft resolution by deleting the word "priority" before the word "theme".

32. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.6, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 39, draft resolution IV).

33. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Japan and Germany; and the delegation of Sweden indicated that it had intended to sponsor the draft resolution (see A/C.3/63/SR.23).

E. Draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.7

34. At the 11th meeting, on 14 October, the representative of Mongolia, on behalf of Argentina, Armenia, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Finland, Guatemala, Israel, Jordan, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Panama, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea and Singapore, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all" (A/C.3/63/L.7), and orally revised the text as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 10, after the words "harnessing new resources for literacy" the remainder of the paragraph was deleted;

(b) At the end of operative paragraph 11, after the words "renewed cooperation and action", the words "in literacy" were replaced by the words "based on the above priority areas".

35. Subsequently, Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Austria, Azerbaijan, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, the Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zambia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

36. At the 23rd meeting, on 23 October, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications (see A/C.3/63/SR.23).

37. At the same meeting, the representative of Mongolia further orally revised the text as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 5, after the words "innovative strategies for reaching", the words "the groups disproportionately affected by illiteracy, in particular" were inserted;

(b) In operative paragraph 11, the words "and on the basis of the mid-Decade review and the outcomes of the Regional Conferences in Support of Global Literacy held in 2007 and 2008, a strategic framework for renewed cooperation and action in literacy" were replaced by the words "a strategic framework for renewed cooperation and action, on the basis of the mid-Decade review and the outcomes of the Regional Conferences in Support of Global Literacy, including the above-mentioned three priorities";

(c) Operative paragraph 13 was deleted and the subsequent paragraphs were renumbered accordingly.

38. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.7, as orally revised (see para. 39, draft resolution V).

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

39. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities through the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions concerning persons with disabilities, in particular resolution 62/127 of 18 December 2007, and resolution 62/170 of 18 December 2007,

Recognizing the important role of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons[1] as a policy instrument and of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities[2] as an instrument in support of efforts for persons with disabilities, and the need to update those instruments in the light of the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[3]

Welcoming the entry into force, on 3 May 2008, of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto,[4] the purpose of which is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities and to promote respect for their inherent dignity, and recognizing that the adoption of the Convention represents a crucial opportunity to consolidate disability-related activities within the United Nations system,

Aware that there are at least 650 million persons with disabilities worldwide, of whom 80 per cent live in developing countries, and that the majority of persons with disabilities live in conditions of poverty, and in this regard recognizing the critical need to address the negative impact of poverty on persons with disabilities,

Bearing in mind that conditions of peace and security based on full respect for the purposes and principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations and observance of applicable human rights instruments are indispensable for the full protection of persons with disabilities, in particular during armed conflicts and foreign occupation,

Underlining the importance of mobilizing resources at all levels for the successful implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and recognizing the importance of international cooperation and its promotion in support of national efforts, in particular in developing countries,

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[1] A/37/351/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation I (IV).

[2] Resolution 48/96, annex.

[3] Resolution 61/106, annex I.

[4] Ibid., annex II.

Reaffirming the need to include and integrate the rights, well-being and perspective of persons with disabilities in development efforts at the national, regional and international levels, without which the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals, will not be genuinely achieved, and in this regard stressing the need to build or strengthen the effectiveness of national and regional legislation, the domestic policy environment and development programmes affecting persons with disabilities,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the fifth quinquennial review and appraisal of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons[5] and his report on the status of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto;[6]

2. *Expresses* concern about the persistent gap between policy and practice regarding mainstreaming the perspective of persons with disabilities, including their rights and well-being, in the work of the United Nations in realizing the Millennium Development Goals;

3. *Urges* States to involve persons with disabilities on an equal basis with other persons in the formulation of strategies and plans, in particular those of most relevance to them;

4. *Encourages* States, in cooperation with, inter alia, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as regional and international financial institutions and the private sector, as appropriate, to be guided in their work by the objectives of the United Nations instruments related to disability by, inter alia:

(a) Examining and ensuring that development strategies, policies and programmes aimed at implementing internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, are inclusive of issues concerning persons with disabilities and that they promote the equalization of opportunities for all;

(b) Ensuring accessibility and reasonable accommodation to enable persons with disabilities to realize their right to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life, as well as to be agents and beneficiaries of development;

(c) Providing appropriate resources and accessible services and safety nets for persons with disabilities to ensure improved well-being for all;

(d) Ensuring an adequate standard of living and social protection for persons with disabilities, including through equal access to poverty and hunger eradication programmes, inclusive quality education, in particular free and compulsory primary education and progressive introduction of free secondary education, as well as the same range, quality and standard of free or affordable health care in order to ensure the highest attainable standard of health for persons with disabilities, without discrimination on the basis of disability, and access to full and productive employment and decent work for all;

(e) Promoting and strengthening national capacities for participatory, democratic and accountable processes and mechanisms that further the equalization

[5] A/63/183.

[6] A/63/264 and Corr.1.

of opportunities for the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in civil, political, economic, social and cultural life;

5. *Encourages* States to collect and analyse appropriate information, including statistical and research data that are disaggregated by age and sex, on the situation of persons with disabilities, bearing in mind appropriate protection of personal data, for purposes of policy planning, analysis and evaluation that include the perspective of persons with disabilities, and in this regard invites States to avail themselves of the technical services of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat;

6. *Reaffirms* the role of the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability and encourages States, intergovernmental organizations, concerned non-governmental organizations and the private sector to continue to support the Fund, with a view to strengthening its capacity to support catalytic and innovative activities to implement fully the development goals and objectives of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,[1] the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities[2] and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[3] including the work of the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development, and to facilitate international cooperation, including building national capacities with emphasis on priorities for action identified in the present resolution;

7. *Calls upon* States to consider including in country reports in connection with the forthcoming periodic reviews of progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, a review and evaluation of the impact of development efforts on the rights, well-being and livelihood of persons with disabilities;

8. *Urges* States to pay special attention to the gender and age-specific needs of persons with disabilities, including by taking measures to ensure their full and effective enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

9. *Also urges* States to take, in accordance with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, all necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters;

10. *Recognizes* the evolution of thought and discourse surrounding disability issues and the importance of aligning terminologies, definitions and models with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and requests the Secretary-General to update the World Programme of Action in this regard, while maintaining its thrust and objective of addressing disability issues in the context of economic and social development;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to give higher priority to the concerns of and issues related to persons with disabilities and their inclusion within the work programme of the United Nations system, and, within existing resources, to strengthen the role of the United Nations and its development programmes and agencies in mainstreaming disability issues, in promoting the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities and in taking into account the perspective and inclusion of persons with disabilities in the work of the United Nations system through:

(a) Promoting the inclusion of the perspective of persons with disabilities into the policies, programmes and projects of the United Nations Secretariat and the other United Nations bodies and agencies on a broader scale and with higher priority, based on a holistic approach in the work done in the fields of social development, human rights and non-discrimination, and in this regard ensuring that the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses is inclusive of the perspective of persons with disabilities;

(b) Further strengthening action in all countries and providing assistance to developing countries, in particular to least developed countries, with special attention to persons with disabilities in vulnerable circumstances;

(c) Assisting Member States in formulating comprehensive and coherent policies and action plans, as well as projects, including pilot projects that promote, inter alia, international cooperation and technical assistance, in particular to enhance the capacities of government agencies, as well as civil society, including organizations of persons with disabilities to implement programmes on disability;

12. *Encourages* States in their efforts to realize the Millennium Development Goals to recognize the importance of international cooperation and its promotion in support of national efforts for the realization of the purpose and objectives of the World Programme of Action and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and to undertake appropriate and effective measures in this regard between and among States and, as appropriate, in partnership with relevant international and regional organizations and civil society, in particular organizations of persons with disabilities;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a report on the situation of persons with disabilities with respect to the realization of all the Millennium Development Goals and on lessons learned and synergies and complementarities achieved, based on the implementation of the World Programme of Action, the Standard Rules and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in order to provide a framework for Member States in their efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities;

(b) To submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session a comprehensive biennial report on the implementation of the World Programme of Action, progress and challenges concerning the advancement of persons with disabilities in the context of development and the realization of the Millennium Development Goals;

(c) To request the Inter-Agency Support Group for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to integrate the rights of persons with disabilities into United Nations development activities and to provide guidelines for United Nations country teams.

Draft resolution II
Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 57/167 of 18 December 2002, in which it endorsed the Political Declaration[1] and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,[2] its resolution 58/134 of 22 December 2003, in which it took note, inter alia, of the road map for the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, and its resolutions 60/135 of 16 December 2005, 61/142 of 19 December 2006 and 62/130 of 18 December 2007,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[3]

1. *Recognizes* the successful conclusion of the first review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,[2] and its results at the international, regional and national levels;

2. *Encourages* Governments to pay greater attention to building capacity to eradicate poverty among older persons, in particular older women, by mainstreaming ageing issues into poverty eradication strategies and national development plans, and to include both ageing-specific policies and ageing-mainstreaming efforts in their national strategies;

3. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen their efforts to develop national capacity to address their national implementation priorities identified during the review and appraisal exercise, and invites Member States that have not done so to consider a step-by-step approach to developing capacity that includes the setting of national priorities, the strengthening of institutional mechanisms, research, data collection and analysis and the training of necessary personnel in the field of ageing;

4. *Also encourages* Member States to overcome obstacles to the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action by devising strategies that take into account the entirety of the human life-course and foster intergenerational solidarity in order to increase the likelihood of greater success in the years ahead;

5. *Further encourages* Member States to place particular emphasis on choosing national priorities that are realistic, feasible and have the greatest likelihood of being achieved in the years ahead, to develop targets and indicators to measure progress in the implementation process and to present their views on the outline of the strategic implementation framework contained in the report of the Secretary-General[3] so that they can be reflected in the final draft of the framework to be presented to the Commission for Social Development at its forty-seventh session, in February 2009;

6. *Recommends* that Member States increase awareness-raising of the Madrid Plan of Action, including by strengthening networks of national focal points on ageing, working with the regional commissions and enlisting the help of the

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[1] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] A/63/95.

Department of Public Information of the Secretariat to expand media coverage on ageing issues;

7. *Invites* Governments that have not done so to designate focal points for handling follow-up of national plans of action on ageing;

8. *Invites* Governments to conduct their ageing-related policies through inclusive and participatory consultations with relevant stakeholders and social development partners, in the interest of developing effective policies creating national policy ownership and consensus-building;

9. *Stresses* that, in order to complement national development efforts, enhanced international cooperation is essential to support developing countries in implementing the Madrid Plan of Action, while recognizing the importance of assistance and the provision of financial assistance;

10. *Encourages* the international community to support national efforts to forge stronger partnerships with civil society, including organizations of older persons, academia, research foundations, community-based organizations, including caregivers, and the private sector, in an effort to help to build capacity on ageing issues;

11. *Calls upon* Governments to ensure, as appropriate, conditions that enable families and communities to provide care and protection to persons as they age and to evaluate improvement in the health status of older persons, including on a gender-specific basis, and to reduce disability and mortality;

12. *Encourages* Governments to continue their efforts to implement the Madrid Plan of Action and to mainstream the concerns of older persons into their policy agendas, bearing in mind the crucial importance of family intergenerational interdependence, solidarity and reciprocity for social development and the realization of all human rights for older persons, and to prevent age discrimination and provide social integration;

13. *Encourages* the international community to enhance international cooperation to support national efforts to eradicate poverty, in keeping with internationally agreed goals, in order to achieve sustainable social and economic support for older persons;

14. *Encourages* the international community and the relevant agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to support national efforts to provide funding for research and data-collection initiatives on ageing in order to better understand the challenges and opportunities presented by population ageing and to provide policymakers with more accurate and more specific information on gender and ageing;

15. *Recommends* that Member States reaffirm the role of United Nations focal points on ageing, increase technical cooperation efforts, expand the role of the regional commissions on ageing issues and provide added resources for those efforts, facilitate the coordination of national and international non-governmental organizations on ageing and enhance cooperation with academia on a research agenda on ageing;

16. *Reiterates* the need for additional capacity-building at the national level in order to promote and facilitate further implementation of the Madrid Plan of

Action, as well as the result of its first review and appraisal cycle, and in that connection encourages Governments to support the United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to provide expanded assistance to countries, upon their request;

17. *Recommends* that ongoing efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[4] take into account the situation of older persons;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to translate the *Guide to the National Implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing* into all official languages of the United Nations so that it can be used more effectively by Member States, and encourages Member States to translate the *Guide* into their respective languages when appropriate;

19. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including information on the promotion and protection of human rights as they pertain to older persons.

[4] See resolution 55/2.

Draft resolution III
Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Recalling the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held at Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,

Reaffirming that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action[1] and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session,[2] as well as a continued global dialogue on social development issues, constitute the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration[3] and the development goals contained therein, as well as the commitments made at major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, including the commitments made at the 2005 World Summit,[4]

Recalling also its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Recalling further its resolution 60/209 of 22 December 2005 on the implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006),

Noting with appreciation the ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2006 of the Economic and Social Council, on "Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development",[5]

Noting that the decent work agenda of the International Labour Organization, with its four strategic objectives, has an important role to play, as reaffirmed in the International Labour Organization Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, in achieving the objective of full and productive employment and decent work for all,

Emphasizing the need to enhance the role of the Commission for Social Development in the follow-up and review of the World Summit for Social

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[1] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] Resolution S-24/2, annex.

[3] See resolution 55/2.

[4] See resolution 60/1.

[5] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/61/3/Rev.1), chap. III, para. 50.

Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,

Recognizing that a people-centred approach must be at the centre of economic and social development,

Expressing deep concern that attainment of the social development objectives can be hindered by instability in global and national financial markets as well as challenges brought about by the ongoing food and energy crises,

Affirming its strong support for fair globalization and the need to translate growth into eradication of poverty and commitment to strategies and policies that aim to promote full, freely chosen and productive employment and decent work for all and that these should constitute a fundamental component of relevant national and international policies as well as national development strategies, including poverty reduction strategies, and reaffirming also that employment creation and decent work should be incorporated into macroeconomic policies, taking fully into account the impact and social dimension of globalization, the benefits and costs of which are often unevenly shared and distributed,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[6]

2. *Welcomes* the reaffirmation by Governments of their will and commitment to continue implementing the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action,[1] in particular to eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and foster social integration to achieve stable, safe and just societies for all;

3. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the Copenhagen commitments and the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, are mutually reinforcing and that the Copenhagen commitments are crucial to a coherent people-centred approach to development;

4. *Reaffirms* that the Commission for Social Development continues to have the primary responsibility for the follow-up and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly and that it serves as the main United Nations forum for an intensified global dialogue on social development issues, and calls upon Member States, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and civil society to enhance their support for its work;

5. *Recognizes* that the broad concept of social development affirmed by the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly has been weakened in national and international policymaking and that, while poverty eradication is a central part of development policy and discourse, further attention should be given to the other commitments agreed to at the Summit, in particular those concerning employment and social integration, which have also suffered from a general disconnect between economic and social policymaking;

6. *Acknowledges* that the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), launched after the World Summit for Social Development, has

[6] A/63/133.

provided the long-term vision for sustained and concerted efforts at the national and international levels to eradicate poverty;

7. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the commitments made by Governments during the first Decade has fallen short of expectations, and welcomes the proclamation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) by the Assembly in its resolution 62/205 of 19 December 2007 in order to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, the internationally agreed development goals related to poverty eradication, including the Millennium Development Goals;

8. *Emphasizes* that the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit and the 2005 World Summit, as well as the International Conference on Financing for Development, in its Monterrey Consensus,[7] have reinforced the priority and urgency of poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda;

9. *Also emphasizes* that poverty eradication policies should attack poverty by addressing its root and structural causes and manifestations, and that equity and the reduction of inequalities need to be incorporated in those policies;

10. *Stresses* that an enabling environment is a critical precondition for achieving equity and social development and that, while economic growth is essential, entrenched inequality and marginalization are an obstacle to the broad-based and sustained growth required for sustainable, inclusive people-centred development, and recognizes the need to balance and ensure complementarity between measures to achieve growth and measures to achieve economic and social equity in order for there to be an impact on overall poverty levels;

11. *Also stresses* that stability in global financial systems and corporate social responsibility and accountability, as well as national economic policies that have an impact on other stakeholders, are essential in creating an enabling international environment to promote economic growth and social development;

12. *Recognizes* the need to promote respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to address the most pressing social needs of people living in poverty, including through the design and development of appropriate mechanisms to strengthen and consolidate democratic institutions and governance;

13. *Reaffirms* the commitment to the empowerment of women and gender equality, as well as to the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into all development efforts, recognizing that these are critical for achieving sustainable development and for efforts to combat hunger, poverty and disease and to strengthen policies and programmes that improve, ensure and broaden the full participation of women in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life, as equal partners, and to improve their access to all resources needed for the full exercise of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms by removing persistent barriers, including ensuring equal access to full and productive employment and decent work, as well as strengthening their economic independence;

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[7] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

14. *Also reaffirms* the commitment to promote opportunities for full, freely chosen and productive employment, including for the most disadvantaged, as well as decent work for all, in order to deliver social justice combined with economic efficiency, with full respect for fundamental principles and rights at work under conditions of equity, equality, security and dignity, and further reaffirms that macroeconomic policies should, inter alia, support employment creation, taking fully into account the social impact and dimension of globalization;

15. *Takes note with interest* of the adoption by the International Labour Conference in June 2008 of the International Labour Organization Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, which acknowledges the particular role of the International Labour Organization in promoting a fair globalization and its responsibility to assist its members in their efforts;

16. *Reaffirms* that there is an urgent need to create an environment at the national and international levels that is conducive to the attainment of full and productive employment and decent work for all as a foundation for sustainable development and that an environment that supports investment, growth and entrepreneurship is essential to the creation of new job opportunities, and also reaffirms that opportunities for men and women to obtain productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity are essential to ensuring the eradication of hunger and poverty, the improvement of economic and social well-being for all, the achievement of sustained economic growth and sustainable development of all nations and a fully inclusive and equitable globalization;

17. *Stresses* the importance of removing obstacles to the realization of the right of peoples to self-determination, in particular of peoples living under colonial or other forms of alien domination or foreign occupation, which adversely affect their social and economic development, including their exclusion from labour markets;

18. *Reaffirms* that violence, in its many manifestations, including domestic violence, especially against women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities, is a growing threat to the security of individuals, families and communities everywhere; total social breakdown is an all too real contemporary experience; organized crime, illegal drugs, the illicit arms trade, trafficking in women and children, ethnic and religious conflict, civil war, terrorism, all forms of extremist violence, xenophobia, and politically motivated killing and even genocide present fundamental threats to societies and the global social order; they also present compelling and urgent reasons for action by Governments individually and, as appropriate, jointly to foster social cohesion while recognizing, protecting and valuing diversity;

19. *Calls upon* the organizations of the United Nations system to commit to mainstreaming the goal of full and productive employment and decent work for all in their policies, programmes and activities;

20. *Requests* the United Nations funds, programmes and agencies and invites financial institutions to support efforts to mainstream the goals of full and productive employment and decent work for all in their policies, programmes and activities;

21. *Recognizes* that promoting full employment and decent work also requires investing in education, training and skills development for women and men,

girls and boys, strengthening social protection and health systems and applying labour standards;

22. *Also recognizes* that full and productive employment and decent work for all, which encompass social protection, fundamental principles and rights at work and social dialogue, are key elements of sustainable development for all countries and are therefore a priority objective of international cooperation;

23. *Stresses* that policies and strategies to achieve full employment and decent work for all should include specific measures to promote gender equality and foster social integration for social groups, such as youth, persons with disabilities, and older persons, as well as migrants and indigenous peoples;

24. *Also stresses* the need to allocate adequate resources for the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women in the workplace, including unequal access to labour market participation and wage inequalities, as well as reconciliation of work and private life for both women and men;

25. *Encourages* States to promote youth employment through, inter alia, developing and implementing action plans in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders;

26. *Also encourages* States to pursue efforts to promote the concerns of older persons and persons with disabilities and their organizations in the planning, implementing and evaluating of all development programmes and policies;

27. *Stresses* that policies and programmes designed to achieve poverty eradication, full employment and decent work for all should include specific measures to foster social integration, including by providing marginalized socio-economic sectors and groups with equal access to opportunities and social protection;

28. *Acknowledges* the important nexus between international migration and social development, and stresses the importance of enforcing labour law effectively with regard to migrant workers' labour relations and working conditions, inter alia, those related to their remuneration and conditions of health, safety at work and the right to freedom of association;

29. *Reaffirms* that social integration policies should seek to reduce inequalities, promote access to basic social services, education for all and health care, increase the participation and integration of social groups, particularly youth, older persons and persons with disabilities, and address the challenges posed by globalization and market-driven reforms to social development in order for all people in all countries to benefit from globalization;

30. *Urges* Governments, with the cooperation of relevant entities, to develop systems of social protection and to extend or broaden, as appropriate, their effectiveness and coverage including for workers in the informal economy, recognizing the need for social protection systems to provide social security and support labour-market participation, and invites the International Labour Organization to strengthen its social protection strategies, and policies on extending social security coverage, and also urges Governments, while taking account of national circumstance, to focus on the needs of those living in, or vulnerable to, poverty and give particular consideration to universal access to basic social security systems;

31. *Reaffirms* the commitment to promote the rights of indigenous peoples in the areas of education, employment, housing, sanitation, health and social security, and also notes the attention paid to those areas in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;[8]

32. *Recognizes* the need to formulate social development policies in an integral, articulated and participative manner, recognizing poverty as a multidimensional phenomenon, calls for interlinked public policies on this matter, and underlines the need for public policies to be included in a comprehensive development and well-being strategy;

33. *Acknowledges* the important role that the public sector can play as an employer and in developing an environment that enables the effective generation of full and productive employment and decent work for all;

34. *Also acknowledges* the vital role that the private sector can play in generating new investments, employment and financing for development and in advancing efforts towards full employment and decent work;

35. *Recognizes* that the majority of poor people live and work in rural areas, that priority should be given to agricultural and non-farm sectors and that steps should be taken to anticipate and offset the negative social and economic consequences of globalization and to maximize its benefits for poor people living and working in rural areas;

36. *Also recognizes* the need to give priority to investing in and further contributing to sustainable agricultural development and micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and entrepreneurship cooperatives and other forms of social enterprises and the participation and entrepreneurship of women as means to promote full productive employment and decent work for all;

37. *Reaffirms* the commitments made in respect of "Meeting the special needs of Africa" at the 2005 World Summit,[9] underlines the call of the Economic and Social Council for enhanced coordination within the United Nations system and the ongoing efforts to harmonize the current initiatives on Africa, and requests the Commission for Social Development to continue to give due prominence in its work to the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;[10]

38. *Also reaffirms* that each country has the primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, and underlines the importance of adopting effective measures, including new financial mechanisms, as appropriate, to support the efforts of developing countries to achieve sustained economic growth, sustainable development, poverty eradication and the strengthening of their democratic systems;

39. *Further reaffirms*, in this context, that international cooperation has an essential role in assisting developing countries, including the least developed countries, in strengthening their human, institutional and technological capacity;

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[8] Resolution 61/295, annex.

[9] See resolution 60/1, para. 68.

[10] A/57/304, annex.

40. *Stresses* that the international community shall enhance its efforts to create an enabling environment for social development and poverty eradication through increasing market access for developing countries, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, financial aid and a comprehensive solution to the external debt problem;

41. *Also stresses* that international trade and stable financial systems can be effective tools to create favourable conditions for the development of all countries and that trade barriers and some trading practices continue to have negative effects on employment growth, particularly in developing countries;

42. *Acknowledges* that good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels are essential for sustained economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger;

43. *Urges* developed countries that have not yet done so in accordance with their commitments, to make concrete efforts towards meeting the targets of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.2 per cent of their gross national product to least developed countries, and encourages developing countries to build on the progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help to meet development goals and targets;

44. *Welcomes* the contribution to the mobilization of resources for social development by the initiatives taken on a voluntary basis by groups of Member States based on innovative financing mechanisms, including those that aim to provide further drug access at affordable prices to developing countries on a sustainable and predictable basis, such as the International Drug Purchase Facility, UNITAID, as well as other initiatives, such as the International Finance Facility for Immunization and the Advance Market Commitments for Vaccines, and notes the New York Declaration of 20 September 2004, which launched the Action against Hunger and Poverty initiative and called for further attention to raise funds urgently needed to help meet the Millennium Development Goals and to complement and ensure the long-term stability and predictability of foreign aid;

45. *Reaffirms* that social development requires the active involvement of all actors in the development process, including civil society organizations, corporations and small businesses, and that partnerships among all relevant actors are increasingly becoming part of national and international cooperation for social development, and also reaffirms that, within countries, partnerships among the Government, civil society and the private sector can contribute effectively to the achievement of social development goals;

46. *Underlines* the responsibility of the private sector, at both the national and the international levels, including small and large companies and transnational corporations, regarding not only the economic and financial but also the development, social, gender and environmental implications of their activities, their obligations towards their workers and their contributions to achieving sustainable development, including social development, and emphasizes the need to take concrete actions on corporate responsibility and accountability, including through the participation of all relevant stakeholders, inter alia, for the prevention or prosecution of corruption;

47. *Stresses* the importance of promoting corporate social responsibility and accountability, encourages responsible business practices, such as those promoted by the Global Compact, and invites the private sector to take into account not only the economic and financial but also the developmental, social, human rights, gender and environmental implications of its undertakings, and underlines the importance of the International Labour Organization Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy;

48. *Invites* the Secretary-General, the Economic and Social Council, the regional commissions, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental forums, within their respective mandates, to continue to integrate into their work programmes and give priority attention to the Copenhagen commitments and the Declaration on the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development,[11] to continue to be actively involved in their follow-up and to monitor the achievement of those commitments and undertakings;

49. *Invites* the Commission for Social Development to emphasize in its review of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action the increased exchange of national, regional and international experiences, the focused and interactive dialogues among experts and practitioners and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned, and to address, inter alia, the potential impact of the ongoing food, financial and energy crises on social development goals;

50. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly", and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the question to the Assembly at that session.

[11] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 6* (E/2005/26), chap. I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2005/234.

Draft resolution IV
Follow-up to the implementation of the International Year of Volunteers

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 60/134 of 16 December 2005 on the follow-up to the International Year of Volunteers,

Noting that the momentum created by the International Year has contributed to the vibrancy of volunteerism globally with the involvement of more people, from a broader cross-section of societies,

Recognizing that volunteerism is an important component of any strategy aimed at, inter alia, such areas as poverty reduction, sustainable development, health, disaster prevention and management and social integration and, in particular, overcoming social exclusion and discrimination,

Recognizing also that volunteerism makes significant contributions to development and that appropriate policies are needed to ensure that this potential is realized,

Acknowledging the existing contribution of the organizations of the United Nations system to supporting volunteering, and especially the work of the United Nations Volunteers programme around the world, and acknowledging also the efforts by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to promote volunteerism throughout its global network,

Bearing in mind the need for an integrated and coordinated follow-up to the International Year of Volunteers to be pursued in the relevant parts of the United Nations system,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Reaffirms* the need to recognize and promote all forms of volunteerism as an issue that involves and benefits all segments of society, including women, children, young persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, minorities, migrants and those who remain excluded for social or economic reasons;

3. *Recognizes* the importance of supportive legislative and fiscal frameworks for the growth and development of volunteerism, and encourages Governments to enact such measures;

4. *Welcomes* the work of Governments, the United Nations system and other stakeholders to create a supportive environment for the promotion of volunteerism;

5. *Takes note* of the actions by Governments to support volunteerism and reiterates its call upon them to continue such action;

6. *Acknowledges* the importance of civil society organizations for the promotion of volunteerism and in that respect recognizes that strengthening the dialogue and interaction between civil society and the United Nations contributes to the expansion of volunteerism;

[1] A/63/184.

7. *Encourages* Governments to establish partnerships with civil society in order to build up volunteer potential at the national level, given the important contribution that volunteerism makes to the fulfilment of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;[2]

8. *Welcomes* the expanding involvement of the private sector in support of volunteerism and encourages Governments to support this trend;

9. *Invites* Governments to mobilize and support the research community globally to carry out more studies on the subject of volunteerism, in partnership with civil society, in order to provide a sound knowledge as a foundation for policies and programmes;

10. *Recognizes* that greater efforts are needed to ensure that climate change and the environment feature on the volunteerism agenda of Governments and the United Nations;

11. *Calls for* the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to integrate volunteerism in its various forms into their policies, programmes and reports, and encourages the recognition and inclusion of volunteer contributions in future United Nations and other relevant international conferences;

12. *Reaffirms* its recognition of the work of the United Nations Volunteers programme as the focal point for the follow-up to the International Year of Volunteers and requests it to continue to raise awareness of the contribution of volunteerism to peace and development, to act as a convener on the subject for the various interested stakeholders, to make available networking and reference resources and to provide technical cooperation to developing countries, upon their request;

13. *Invites* the Commission for Social Development to consider "volunteerism for development" in the context of its theme of social integration at its forty-seventh and forty-eighth sessions, in 2009 and 2010 respectively;

14. *Decides* that on or around 5 December 2011, the International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development, two plenary meetings at the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly shall be devoted to follow-up to the International Year of Volunteers and the commemoration of its tenth anniversary, under the agenda item entitled "Social development";

15. *Invites* Governments, with the active support of the media, civil society and the private sector, as well as development partners and the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to carry out activities focused on marking the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers, in 2011, at the regional and national levels;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution, under the agenda item entitled "Social development".

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[2] See resolution 55/2.

Draft resolution V
United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 56/116 of 19 December 2001, by which it proclaimed the ten-year period beginning on 1 January 2003 the United Nations Literacy Decade, its resolution 57/166 of 18 December 2002, in which it welcomed the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade, its resolution 59/149 of 20 December 2004 and its resolution 61/140 of 19 December 2006,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] in which Member States resolved to ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and that girls and boys will have equal access to all levels of education, which requires a renewed commitment to promote literacy for all,

Reaffirming the emphasis placed by the 2005 World Summit on the critical role of both formal and non-formal education in the achievement of poverty eradication and other development goals as envisaged in the Millennium Declaration, in particular basic education and training for achieving universal literacy, and the need to strive for expanded secondary and higher education as well as vocational education and technical training, especially for girls and women, the creation of human resources and infrastructure capabilities and the empowerment of those living in poverty,

Reaffirming also that quality basic education is crucial to nation-building, that literacy for all is at the heart of basic education for all and that creating literate environments and societies is essential for achieving the goals of eradicating poverty, reducing child mortality, curbing population growth, achieving gender equality and ensuring sustainable development, peace and democracy,

Convinced that literacy is crucial to the acquisition by every child, youth and adult of the essential life skills that will enable them to address the challenges that they can face in life and represents an essential condition of lifelong learning, which is an indispensable means for effective participation in the knowledge societies and economies of the twenty-first century,

Affirming that the realization of the right to education, especially for girls, contributes to the promotion of gender equality and the eradication of poverty,

Welcoming the considerable efforts that have been made so far by Member States and the international community to address the objectives of the Decade and to implement the International Plan of Action,

Reaffirming the right of indigenous peoples, in particular children, to have non-discriminatory access to all levels and forms of education provided by States,

Noting with deep concern that 774 million adults who do not have basic literacy skills and 75 million children remain out of school, and millions more young people leave school without a level of literacy adequate for productive and active participation in their societies, that the issue of literacy may not be sufficiently high on national agendas to generate the kind of political and economic

[1] See resolution 55/2.

support required to address global literacy challenges and that the world is unlikely to meet those challenges if the present trends continue,

Deeply concerned about the persistence of the gender gap in education, which is reflected by the fact that nearly two thirds of the world's adult illiterates are women,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the implementation of the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade;[2]

2. *Takes note also* of the summary outcomes of the Regional Conferences in Support of Global Literacy,[3] held in Azerbaijan, China, India, Mali, Mexico and Qatar in 2007 and 2008, which indicate that the second half of the United Nations Literacy Decade should develop appropriate networks for greater regional collaboration;

3. *Recognizes* that a renewed collective commitment will be needed if the objectives of the Decade are to be met;

4. *Calls* on Member States to further reinforce political will, giving literacy higher priority within their educational planning and budgeting;

5. *Appeals* to all Governments to develop reliable literacy data and information and more inclusive policymaking environments and to devise innovative strategies for reaching the groups disproportionately affected by illiteracy, in particular the poorest and most marginalized groups, and for seeking alternative formal and non-formal approaches to learning with a view to achieving the goals of the Decade;

6. *Also appeals* to Governments to take full account of the use of languages in different contexts by promoting multilingual approaches to literacy, through which learners may acquire initial literacy in the language they know best and in additional languages as needed;

7. *Urges* all Governments to take the lead in coordinating the activities of the Decade at the national level, bringing all relevant national actors together in a sustained dialogue and collaborative action on policy formulation, implementation and evaluation of literacy efforts;

8. *Appeals* to all Governments to strengthen national and subnational professional institutions in their countries and to foster greater collaboration among all literacy partners with a view to developing greater capacity to design and deliver high-quality literacy programmes for youth and adults;

9. *Appeals* to all Governments and to economic and financial organizations and institutions, both national and international, to lend greater financial and material support to the efforts to increase literacy and achieve the goals of Education for All and those of the Decade;

10. *Takes note* of the three priority areas for the remaining years of the Decade identified through the mid-Decade review, namely, mobilizing stronger

[2] See A/63/172.

[3] Available from http://www.unesco.org/education/en/literacy/conferences.

commitment to literacy, reinforcing more effective literacy programme delivery and harnessing new resources for literacy;

11. *Requests* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to reinforce its coordinating and catalysing role in the fight against illiteracy and to develop, in cooperation with other international partners, in particular the specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, a strategic framework for renewed cooperation and action, on the basis of the mid-Decade review and the outcomes of the Regional Conferences in Support of Global Literacy, including the above-mentioned three priorities;

12. *Invites* Member States, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to support the implementation of the above priorities within the framework of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;[1]

13. *Calls upon* Member States to give, during the second half of the implementation of the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade, adequate attention to the cultural diversity of minorities and indigenous peoples;

14. *Requests* all relevant entities of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in cooperation with national Governments, to take immediate, concrete steps to address the needs of countries with high illiteracy rates and/or with large populations of illiterate adults, with particular regard to women, including through programmes that promote low-cost and effective literacy provisions;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to seek the views of Member States on the progress achieved in implementing their national programmes and plans of action for the Decade and to submit the next progress report on the implementation of the International Plan of Action to the General Assembly in 2010;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session, under the item entitled "Social development", the sub-item entitled "United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all".